

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1426
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
EXTENSION OF SMALL POST OFFICES
Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend the small post offices in rural areas of the country and employ more staff therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The Government has not taken any general policy decision to extend the small Post Offices in rural areas of the country and employ more staff in these offices. However, small Post Offices called Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices/ Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices (EDBOs/EDSOs) are upgraded into Departmental Sub Offices (DSOs) on a case-to-case basis subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms, availability of resources and manpower. The upgradation is done by redeployment of staff.

(b) The prescribed norms for upgradation of Branch Post Offices is that the minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss in upgraded Departmental Sub Offices is Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas, and Rs. 4800/- in tribal and hilly rural areas. The manpower requirement of upgraded post offices is met by redeployment of staff from amongst the existing staff strength.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.